



**Estill 8U is Fifth At Gatlinburg – Page 15**

# The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 6 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

## Fred Rogers retires with 42 years of public service



Fred Rogers, left, received many plaques during a retirement ceremony for him last Wednesday evening. Above, Jimmie Wise, director of Estill County Emergency Medical Services (ambulance service), presented a plaque to Rogers.

by **DELORES L. ROWLAND**  
The Estill County Tribune

Fred Rogers was recognized last Wednesday upon his retirement as Director of Estill County Emergency Management. Several hundred attended the retirement ceremony at the Estill County Fair Barn. This included elected officials, dignitaries from CSEPP and state Emergency Management, firefighters, volunteers with the rescue squad, friends, and family. While those attending were eating an informal meal, Rogers did not get a chance to eat. The invited guests formed a never ending line to greet Rogers with well-wishes. Rogers has 42 years of community service as a firefighter, Emergency Medical

Technician, Fire Chief, 911 supervisor, and Emergency Management Director. While many spoke about Rogers and presented certificates of appreciation to him, Irvine Fire Chief Tony Murphy had worked with Rogers' the longest. Murphy said he and Rogers became friends in high school. They parted ways for a few years. Rogers went into the military and came back to take a firefighter's job in Winchester. About ten years later, Rogers became chief of the Irvine Fire Department, and Murphy was made assistant chief. "We worked hard for that fire department. We had nothing back then," Murphy stated.

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Rogers gets an embrace from long-time former Irvine Mayor Tom Williams. He worked with many mayors and county judges. The line to greet Rogers went around the fair barn.



Rick Neal and his 10-year-old son, Jacob, were at the Madison County Fair on Saturday when fire destroyed their home on Campbell's Branch. Helping Hands placed the family in a motel and has been collecting clothing, furniture and school supplies. Helping Hands is also accepting monetary donations to help the Neals rebuild their home or get a mobile home.

## House fire destroys everything

A father and son, Rick and Jacob Neal, lost their home and all its contents during a fire on Saturday. Their home was located on Campbell's Branch Road. Helping Hands Outreach placed the Neals at Oak Tree Inn. The Estill County Red Cross will also be assisting with their stay at the motel. Helping Hands has received enough clothing and school supplies for Jacob.



The above photo shows all that remains of the Neal home on Campbell's Branch after a house-fire on Saturday.

Photos courtesy of Helping Hands

Helping Hands is now accepting monetary donations to buy the Neals a trailer or to rebuild their home.

Last month, the Estill County Tribune ran an article about the Neal family. Rick is a father raising his son alone.

Jacob had worked for about a month so he could go to the Estill County Fair every night. He paid both his and his dad's admission into the fair. Jacob also paid for the food.

We were unable to locate Jacob and his father for this article.

A cousin said the family was not at home when the fire occurred. He said they had gone to the Madison County Fair.

## Irvine driver of fuel tanker is recovering from wreck

Friends of an Irvine man, Larry "Tweety" Smyth, said he was the driver of the fuel tanker which overturned on I-64 in Montgomery County early Monday morning. News sources said the driver had filled the tanker with diesel and gas in Lexington and was traveling in the eastbound lane. Upon arrival, emergency personnel reported the driver was unresponsive. Later, his condition was described as critical. One friend said that Smyth was expected to go

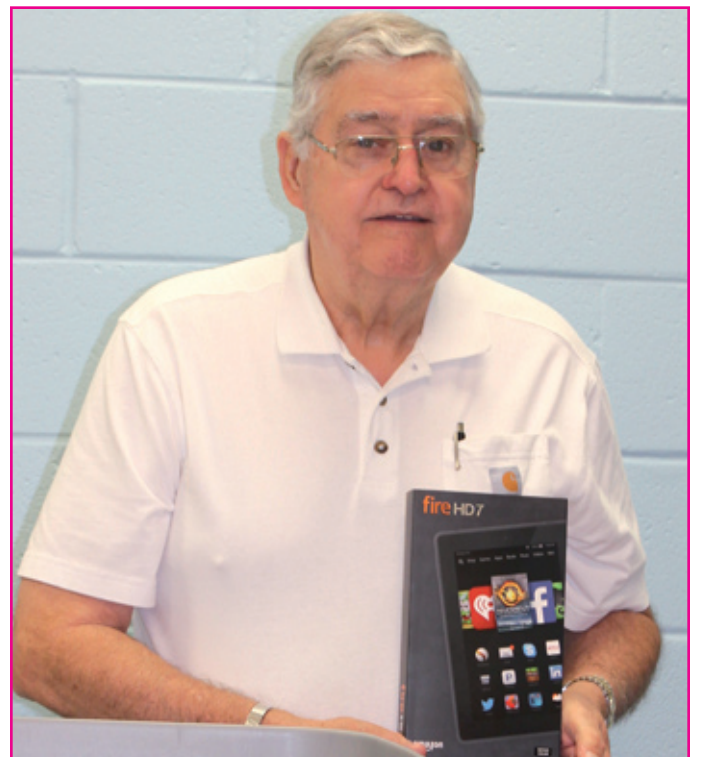
home from the hospital on Tuesday. The overturned tanker shut down I-64 for hours although there was no fuel leak. Some diesel and fuel was spilled when the tanker rolled. The tanker was carrying an estimated 2,500 gallons of fuel which was transferred from the scene. The eastbound lanes of the interstate were closed until 1:30 because transferring the fuel is dangerous.

### Obituaries

- Earl F. Ashcraft, 92
  - Ernest Beckler, 80
  - Joyce Cole, 79
  - Christina Conway, 55
  - Harold Culton, 81
  - Kathleen Dixon, 70
  - J.B. Henry, 80
  - Charlie Isaacs Jr., 45
  - Roy Noland Jr., 78
  - Danny Parsons, 63
  - Pauline Puckett, 83
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The summer reading program at the Estill County Library ended last Tuesday with ice cream and a concert in Rising Park. Whitney Hays, children's librarian, poses with prize winners William Kelley and Cade Toler.



Mayor W.J. Noland drew Monday for prizes for the adult and teen winners of the summer reading program at the library. The winners were Shonna Murray and Addison Thomas. They each received an HD Fire Tablet.