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“Forever” Increasing Prices at USPS



The U.S. Postal Service announced in April that the price of a First-Class Mail “Forever” stamp will increase to 73 cents on July 14, up from the current 68 cents. When introduced in 2007, a “Forever” stamp cost 41 cents. Other proposed changes include a 5-cent increase for a 1-ounce metered letter to 69 cents, a 3-cent rise for domestic postcards to 56 cents, and a 10-cent increase for international postcards and letters to \$1.65. These changes represent a 7.8% overall increase in mailing costs. Despite these hikes, the cost of renting a Post Office Box remains unchanged, and postal insurance costs will be reduced by 10%. The price of Forever stamps was last raised to 68 cents in January with the upcoming change marking the second increase just this year. These changes are part of the Postal Service’s 10-year plan toward profitability. USPS reported a \$6.5 billion loss for fiscal 2023 and projects a \$6.3 billion deficit for 2024.

Church News & Events

- Wolf Creek Baptist Church (5225 Wolf Creek Road, Spring City) presents Gospel group, *Greater Vision* with Special Guests *The Sentinels* on Thursday, July 11th at 7:00 pm. This is a free concert with a love offering being taken. For more info, contact Brad Harris at (423) 718-0797 or Wolf Creek Baptist Church at (423) 365-9225.
- East Athens Baptist Church (301 Central Ave., Athens) presents their Vacation Bible School on July 8 - 12 from 5:45 pm - 8:15 pm. Free Supper will be provided and children up through 5th grade are encouraged to attend.
- Oak Grove Baptist Church (711 County Road 275, Niota) is hosting the Sundresses & Sandals Luncheon with guest speaker Minister Yaquia Walker, **tomorrow**, Saturday, June 29th from 11 am - 1 pm. The cost, including lunch, is \$20.
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (1923 Pleasant Hill Rd., Ten Mile) is having their Community Lunch this Saturday June, 29th from Noon - 2 pm. This free meal will consist of BBQ pork chops, chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert and a drink. Everyone is invited for fellowship to enjoy this delicious meal.
- First Church of God (300 N. Congress Pkwy, Athens) is holding a one day VBS on Saturday, July 13 from 9 am - 2 pm.
- This Sunday, June 30th, Mars Hill Presbyterian Church will have a special choir performance. Close to 20 of the area’s singers will join the Mars Hill choir as part of the send off to Pam Thigpen and Johnny Coffman who are retiring that day as Choir Director and Accompanist respectively. Service begins at 10:45 and the public is welcome.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - 40% Chance of Storms. High 90.

Fri. Night - Mostly Cloudy. Low 73.

Sat. - 70% Chance of Storms. High 88. Low 73.

Sun. - 70% Chance of Storms. High 91. Low 71.

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Friday, June 28, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Historic Bridge Closed Indefinitely



A routine TDOT inspection of Knoxville's Gay Street Bridge revealed a compromised steel element, leading to its closure for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The 1,512-foot bridge, composed of straight, connected triangular pieces, showed a distorted steel piece that could potentially cause buckling. The bridge was

closed out of an abundance of caution, though the damage occurred after last year's inspection. The closure did not impact the downtown parade celebrating the University of Tennessee's national baseball championship.

A more detailed inspection by TDOT will continue. Built in 1898, the bridge is Knoxville's oldest over the Tennessee River and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A \$15.7 million improvement project in 2004 had kept the bridge in good condition until now, with no prior closures required for safety. Photo Courtesy of VisitKnoxville.com

Obituaries

Betty Joyce Williams, 86, passed away Monday, June 24th at TerraBella of Athens. Fondly known as Miss Betty to generations of children who loved her cooking, she retired from First Presbyterian Day Care of Etowah after more than 20 years of service. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 1 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., Monday prior to the service. Entombment will follow the service in McMinn Memory Gardens Mausoleum. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements

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Friday, June 28, 2024 Morning Fax[®]... Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Names 2024 Mercy Award Winner



Courtesy Starr Regional Medical Center. (Left to right): David Alley, CFO; Debbie Vaughn, RN, Interim Chief Nursing Officer; Vania King, CPCS, Mercy Award winner; and John McLain, CEO

Starr Regional Medical Center recently announced Vania King, CPCS, as their 2024 Mercy Award winner. This award, LifePoint Health's highest honor, recognizes employees who significantly impact others and exemplify the company's founding values. King, the

Medical Staff Coordinator, was chosen for her empathy, relationship-building, and servant leadership. Established in 2001, the Mercy Award is an annual recognition program that honors the life and contributions of Scott Mercy, LifePoint's founding chairman and chief executive officer. Nominated by colleagues, she is now a semifinalist for the companywide Mercy Award. King will attend the award ceremony in Nashville in August, where the overall winner will be announced.

TWU Welcomes New Associate Head Coach



Head baseball coach Billy Berry announced the addition of Mike Mendoza as the Associate Head Coach for the baseball program. Mendoza joins after five seasons as an assistant coach at Southeastern University, where he was crucial in recruiting efforts that led to the team's qualification for the Avista-NAIA World Series from 2021-2024 and a NAIA Championship win in 2022. He was named NAIA Assistant Coach of the Year by the ABCA in 2021.

Before Southeastern, Mendoza spent four seasons as an assistant coach at Faulkner University, contributing to their Avista-NAIA World Series appearances each year. He began his coaching career at Iowa Wesleyan in 2013 and then at Ashford University in 2014-2015.

A native of San Gabriel, California, Mendoza played college baseball at Glendale Community College and Iowa Wesleyan University, earning multiple Player of the Year and All-American honors. He also played professional baseball in the Frontier and Pecos Leagues. Photo Courtesy of twbulldogs.com



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Monday- Friday
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Additional Locations:

- Athens Gardens/Mews 11:00-11:20
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- North City School 1:00-1:20

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Former Chattanooga Police Chief Facing Charges One Day After Resignation



Former Chattanooga Police Chief Celeste Murphy faces felony and misdemeanor charges after a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation probe. At the request of District Attorney General Pro Tem D.

Michael Dunavant, TBI agents began investigating Murphy's residency in April. The investigation revealed Murphy submitted false information on government documents to establish residency in Chattanooga.

A Hamilton County Grand Jury indicted Murphy on 17 counts, including one count of Illegal Voter Registration, one count of False Entries on Official Registration or Election Documents, three counts of False Entries in Governmental Records, three counts of Forgery, three counts of Perjury, and six counts of Official Misconduct. Murphy surrendered to agents at the Hamilton County Jail and was booked at the Hamilton County Jail and released on a \$19,000 bond. The charges are accusations, and Murphy is presumed innocent until proven guilty. *Photo Courtesy: City of Chattanooga/Hamilton County Sheriff's Office*

What Day is It?

Today in History - June 21

- 1776** - The final draft of the Declaration of Independence was submitted to the Continental Congress.
- 1838** - Alexandrina Victoria was crowned Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom at age 19 in Westminster Abbey, London. Her reign of 63 years and seven months, was longer than that of any other British monarch before her, until overtaken by her great-great granddaughter Elizabeth II in 2015.
- 1910** - The Zeppelin LZ7-Deutschland, the first airship with passengers makes its maiden voyage and gets stuck in some trees in Mount Limberg, Lower Saxony, injuring one crew member.
- 1914** - Archduke of Austria Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie are assassinated by Bosnian-Serb assassin Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, setting off a chain of alliances that will begin WWI.
- 1935** - President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders a federal gold vault to be built at Fort Knox, KY.
- 1971** - The US Supreme Court (8-0) overturns draft evasion conviction of Muhammad Ali.
- 1997** - In a boxing match for the heavyweight title, Mike Tyson was disqualified after he twice bit Evander Holyfield's ears. As a result of the infraction, he temporarily lost his boxing license.



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