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Today's News... This Morning

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Murder-Suicide at NHC in Dunlap



A shooting at NHC Healthcare Sequatchie in Dunlap, TN on the morning of Monday, July 7, left two people dead. Dunlap Police Chief Randy Phillips reported that one of the victims, a resident of the nursing home, was shot by her husband, who then took his own life.

The incident occurred at the facility on Dell Trail, and Chief Phillips assured that there was no threat to the public. He added that no other injuries were reported. The names of the individuals involved have not been released, and additional details are currently unavailable.

Community News You Can Use

- The Good Faith Clinic will be open TODAY, Tuesday, July 9 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens. REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, Tuesday of each month.
- The McMinn County Board of Commissioners will convene and meet in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse, Athens, Tennessee in Regular Session on July 15 at 6:00 pm.
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center invites the community to enjoy their summer Family Day programs every Friday at 10 am throughout June and July. All activities are free, but the Center does ask that you sign up in advance to ensure a spot. The center is located at 205 McMinn Ave., in Athens. Call them at (423) 745-6830 or visit their website mcminnseniors.com

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WEATHER FORECAST

Tues. - Humid. Heat Index 109. 60% Chance of Rain. High 93.

Tues. night - Partly Cloudy. Low 75.

Wed. - Mostly Sunny. 60% Chance of Showers. High 89.

Wed. Night - Low 69.

More weather at: wyxi.com

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Hikers Injured After Climbing in Smokies



Officials from Great Smoky Mountains National Park are reminding visitors not to climb rocks near waterfalls after two hikers were seriously injured in a fall last week.

Rangers responded to an incident at Cataract Falls, a 25-foot waterfall located about 10-15 minutes from downtown Gatlinburg, where two hikers sustained serious injuries. The hikers were transported by helicopter from the Sugarlands Visitor Center to a nearby hospital.

The response involved personnel from Gatlinburg Fire and Rescue, the National Park Service Preventative Search and Rescue team, and other staff members. *Photo Courtesy of Friends of the Smokies*

Obituaries

Doris Anne (Dee) Witters, 75 of Ten Mile, entered into rest on Friday, June 14th. Dee will be remembered for her great sense of humor and for finding joy in nature. She loved Stephen King novels, painting, and having fun with family and friends. No formal services will be held. Arrangements entrusted to Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Ernest "Ernie" Thanuel Womack, Sr., SFC US Army (Retired), 87 of McMinn County, passed away on July 6 at Terra Bella Assisted Living of Athens. He was a member of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Riceville. The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 13, 2024, from 11:00-1:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM in the funeral home. Interment with full military honors will follow the funeral services at Upper Spring Creek Cemetery in Riceville. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ernest "Ernie" Thanuel Womack, Sr.

James "Jim" Garnett Benton, 78 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, July 7 at his home surrounded by family. He retired from the City of Athens Fire Department after 40 years of service. Jim also served in the United States Navy and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Riceville. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 PM in the funeral home. Graveside services with military honors will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 11 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of James "Jim" Garnett Benton.

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Woman Shot Dead After Fireworks Argument



A man from Rhea County became so upset with his neighbors for shooting off fireworks that he went to their home and fatally shot a woman, according to authorities.

The incident occurred on Saturday on Jordan Lane in Dayton. According to an affidavit from the Rhea County Sheriff's Office, Troy Cranston Butler "became upset" with his neighbors for shooting fireworks with their children and parents.

Heather Danielle Higgins attempted to break up the argument between Butler and another man when Butler shot her in the chest in the front yard. An ambulance transported Higgins to the nearest hospital, where she later died from her injuries.

Authorities arrested Butler and charged him with criminal homicide. A Rhea County investigator noted that a 17-year-old was present at the time of the shooting, but no other children were. *Photo Courtesy of Rhea Co. Jail*

Beryl Makes Landfall in Southeast Texas, More Than 2.5 Million Without Power



Hurricane Beryl made landfall on Texas' Gulf coast early Monday morning, according to the National Hurricane Center. At 5 a.m., the hurricane's center made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane near Matagorda, Texas, about 85 miles west-southwest of Houston. By later Monday morning, Beryl was downgraded to a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph as it moved north-northeast at 13 mph.

Beryl is expected to turn northeast Monday night and gain speed, heading over east Texas into the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Ohio Valley over the next two days. Current forecasts predict that remnants of Beryl could bring rain to East Tennessee as early as 10 a.m. this morning. *Photo Courtesy of Surfside Beach, Texas Emergency Services*

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Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

SMB Reaches State Tournament



The Starr Mountain Baseball (SMB) 11/12 Ozone All-Star team from Etowah made it to the Diamond Youth Baseball (DYB) State Tournament for the third time since its start in 2019. This year's tournament is being hosted by Wayne County with the Division 1 teams playing

in Waynesboro. SMB qualified by defeating Sequoyah in a 5 game series in the District tournament hosted by Loudon County.

Starting on Friday, July 5th, the boys came out with a win against Chester County with a score of 7-5. On Saturday, they faced Kingston and faced defeat with a loss of 1-14. Sunday afternoon SMB got in gear which led to the elimination of Decatur County with a score of 13-6. With that win, SMB entered into the Division 1 semifinals. They were scheduled against Greenbrier on Monday evening.

Manager: Josh Moore
 Assistant Coach: Jeremi Martin
 Assistant Coach: David Ward
 SMB League Commissioner: Patrick Davis

Story and Photo Provided by Courtney Ward

What Day is It?

Today In History - July 9

1776—The Declaration of Independence is read to George Washington's troops in New York.

1850 - Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the United States, died only 16 days after taking office.

1856 - Nikola Tesla - Serbian American inventor who discovered the rotating magnetic field, the basis of most alternating current machinery - was born in Smilijan, Croatia.

1868 - Louisiana and South Carolina are the last states to ratify the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing civil rights to formerly enslaved people.

1877 - The first-ever Wimbledon tennis championship begins as the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club hosted the first lawn tennis tournament eventually won on July 19 by 27-year-old W. Spencer Gore, a cricket player.

1910 - Walter Brookins, flying a Wright biplane over Atlantic City, New Jersey, becomes 1st to fly an airplane to an altitude of 1 mile (reaching 1.169 miles).

1981 - Nintendo released the arcade game "Donkey Kong" in Japan.

TODAY IS:

- National Sugar Cookie Day
- Cow Appreciation Day



OPEN INTERVIEWS

Saturday, July 13, 2024
 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 5020 Highway 11 South
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Registration
 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

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