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Today's News...This Morning

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Convictions for Multi-State Opioid Pill Mill

On Monday, July 8, Clyde Christopher Tipton, 63, of Tazewell, TN, was sentenced to 50 months in prison for his role in a large pill mill operation. This case resulted in about 140 federal criminal convictions. Tipton will also face three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money and conspiracy to defraud the United States and pay healthcare kickbacks. The case involved the distribution of over 11 million opioid tablets from clinics in Tennessee and Florida, generating over \$21 million in revenue.

Tipton's co-defendants, included: Sylvia Hofstetter, 60 of Miami, FL
Cynthia Clemons, 52 of Knoxville
Courtney Newman, 48 of Knoxville
Holli Womack, 51 of Knoxville
Luigi "Jimmy" Palma, 61 of Miami
Luca Sartini, 64 of Miami
and Benjamin Rodriguez, 49 of Delray, FL

The co-defendants were also convicted and sentenced for their roles in the operation. The prosecution stemmed from an investigation by various federal and local law enforcement agencies and was part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) initiative, aimed at dismantling high-level criminal networks.

WYXI LIVE Broadcast

Today, Friday, July 12, from 11 am - 3 pm, WYXI radio is LIVE from Heavenly Creations by Jen, Florist & Gifts located at 1311 Railroad Ave. in Athens. It is directly across the street from Athens Lawn and Garden. Heavenly Creations by Jen is celebrating 15 years in business and wants to celebrate with you.

Cousin Mark and "Trading Post" host, J.P. Vasquez will be broadcasting live on WYXI FM 94.5 and AM 1390.

The Midlife Frysis Food Truck will be there providing delicious food and there will be FREE Ice Cream from Mayfield Dairy Farms. Free Giveaways from local and regional partners including:

- People's Bank of East Tennessee,
- Starr Mountain Outfitters,
- Michaels Restaurant,
- TN Valley Federal Credit Union,
- Athens Movie Palace,
- Athens Lawn & Garden,
- Hair Works,
- Tennessee Florist Supply,
- The Dairy Barn,
- Sam Robbins,
- Lena Perkins, LMT/Wellness with Lena,
- Heavenly Creations and more!

The only way to win is to come visit the WYXI Table while they're live and fill out an entry form. No Purchase Necessary! Come in and grab flowers and a gift for that special someone! *See their ad on Page 4.*

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If it's not listed, call us!

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Fri. July 12 4 pm - 7 pm
Sat. July 13 8 am - 1 pm

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TAP FOR INFORMATION

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D-I-Y JUST BECAME D-I-DONE



Friday, July 12, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James Larry "Demp" Erwin, age 76, of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, July 9. A Funeral Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024, in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Erwin Family.

Susan Frye Carpenter, age 80, passed away on July 10, in Old Hickory, TN. She was a proud resident of Athens, TN and a proud graduate of Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. Susan has requested there be no formal services. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations toward programs for the disabled. Announcement made courtesy of Smith Funeral and Cremations of Athens.

Church News & Events

- First Church of God (300 N. Congress Pkwy, Athens) is holding a one day VBS on Saturday, July 13 from 9 am - 2 pm.
- Englewood First Church of God is hosting Family Day, a community health event/back-to-school bash along with other local churches and local ministries/services. They will provide resources, services (such as: vaccines, haircuts, hygiene items, etc.), and back-to-school supplies for students (such as: scissors, glue, notebooks, paper, etc.) This event will be on July 20th from 10 am - 2pm at Englewood Park. Everyone is invited. If you would like to donate items, visit their Amazon Wishlist [HERE](#) or for more information about Family Day event, visit their Facebook Event page [HERE](#)
- Clay Hill Baptist Church, (594 County Road 675, Riceville) invites you to a one-day VBS on Saturday, July 20 from 11 am to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome.
- Pope Avenue Baptist Church (301 Pope Street, Athens) invites everyone to their Vacation Bible School on July 14 - 19 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. There are classes for 4 year olds through adults. Call (423) 462-4018 for more information or if you need van pick-up.

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Single Ticket - **\$30**
Couples Ticket - **\$60**
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WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - Sunny, light wind.
High 91.

Fri. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 69.

Sat. - Sunny. High 95. Low 71.

Sun. - Sunny. High 97. Low 72.

More Weather at: wyxi.com

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Friday, July 12, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

What Day is It?

Today In History - July 12

- 1862** - The Medal of Honor, awarded for battlefield bravery, was created for the U.S. Army.
- 1976** - The television game show Family Feud began airing on ABC, it became a huge success, still airing episodes to this day.
- 1984** - Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale named New York Congresswoman Geraldine A. Ferraro his running mate, making her the first woman ever nominated for vice president on a major party ticket.
- 1996** - Basketball player Michael Jordan was offered the richest NBA one-year contract of \$30 million from the Chicago Bulls.
- 2022** - NASA's James Webb Space Telescope released its first groundbreaking images from space.

TODAY IS:

- National French Fry Day
- National Simplicity Day
- National Pecan Pie Day

Arrest Reports

Mick Boyd, 37 of Riceville, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,637.45

Maryann Huston, 30 of Ten Mile, was arrested by the MCSO for the Manufacture, Delivery, Sale and Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Simple Possession of a Schedule II Substance, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Shoplifting, and Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$50,000

Damion Vermejan, 24 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,303.45

Taylor Morrow, 31 of Athens, was arrested by the APD for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, and Driving Under the Influence. Total Bond: \$8000.

Brandon Ferguson, 30 of Madisonville, was arrested by the MCSO for Aggravated Criminal Trespassing. Total Bond: \$2,000.

Jamaris Thornton, 22 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Jeffrey Guffey, 55 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Reckless Endangerment. Total Bond: \$1000.

Those accused are considered innocent until
proven guilty in a court of law.
All information gathered from public sources.



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OPEN INTERVIEWS

Saturday, July 13, 2024
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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Registration
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

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