

## Monday, July 22, 2024

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## Athens, Tennessee

# Early Morning Blaze Engulfs Sweetwater Valley Building Supply



A massive fire erupted around 4 a.m. on Friday at Sweetwater Valley Building Supply on Highway 11N, requiring mutual aid from numerous fire departments. Owner Jason Dacus reported that surveillance footage indicated the fire started in the shop building, where a forklift was charging. The fire quickly spread to a nearby warehouse storing LVT and hardwood flooring, and subsequently to a trailer loaded with strawberries. Both buildings and the trailer suffered extensive damage or were completely destroyed.

Responding to the blaze were North Monroe Fire, Sweetwater City Fire, Tri-Community Fire, Madisonville City Fire, Hopewell Fire, Tellico Plains Fire, Christianburg Fire, Gudger Fire, Philadelphia

Fire, Loudon County Fire Rescue, Clearwater Fire, North McMinn Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire Departments. Additional assistance was provided by Monroe County EMS, Sweetwater Utility Board, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, and Sweetwater Police Department. North Monroe District Fire Chief Justin Wilson led the response efforts.

### Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.





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### Driver Loses Control, Sedan Overturns in Etowah



On Saturday 1:30around 2009 p.m., a Lincoln Signature L sedan overturned on County Road 512 in Etowah after the driver lost control on a sharp curve. The passenger was inside trapped

and required extrication by firefighters who cut back the car's roof. The passenger was treated by AMR and transported to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah.

Responding fire departments included Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire, and Etowah Rural Fire. THP Officer Dean Conk is investigating the accident. Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach commanded the scene.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.

## **TBI Offers \$10,000 for Info Leading to** Suspect's Capture



On July 19, around 7:47 p.m., THP Trooper Adam Cothron was shot during a traffic stop on I-40 near the Burgess Falls exit. The suspects, two black males, fled and abandoned their white Kia Forte on Highway 109 near Gallatin, TN. Trooper Cothron was airlifted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center and is in stable condition.

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One suspect, identified as Braze Rucker,

29, is wanted for Criminal Responsibility of Facilitation of a Felony. A statewide manhunt is underway, involving the THP, TBI, and numerous other law enforcement agencies, to locate Rucker and the other individual involved. Authorities emphasize their desire for a non-violent resolution. The search is ongoing, and limited information is available for release. A \$10,000 reward is offered for information leading to his arrest. Rucker is considered armed and dangerous. Anyone with information should call 1-800-TBI-FIND or dial 911 if spotted.

The search involves the THP, TBI, and other law enforcement agencies. Updates will be provided on THP and TBI social media. *Photo courtesy of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation* 





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# **Obituaries**

died Thursday, July 18 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. Funeral services will be 7:00 pm Monday, July 22, at Ziegler Funeral Home. Burial will be 2:00 pm Tuesday, July 23, in Riceville Cemetery. The family will receive friends 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm Monday, July 22, at Ziegler Funeral home. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Elizabeth Ann Lovingood Walker.

Chris Monroe Richeson, 66 of Englewood TN, passed away Thursday, July 18. He spent several years as a volunteer firefighter for the Englewood Fire Department. A funeral service was held at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, July 21 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family and friends will assemble at Cochran Cemetery, Monday, July 22nd for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements ..

LISTENING REMINDER: This week on Main Street Moments: Tyler Boyd will join host Sandra Kinney to speak about the upcoming Battle of Athens Celebration. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

Elizabeth "Ann" Lovingood Walker, 73, of Madisonville, Delbert Frazier Smith, 46, of Etowah TN, passed away Friday, July 19. In his spare time, he played his guitars, and loved cooking big meals on his smoker. A funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday prior to the service.

> Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home Wednesday, July 24 th at 10:00 a.m. and go in procession for the 11:00 a.m. committal service at Etowah Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge





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Athens, Tennessee

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# **PBET Announces Key Promotions**



Peoples Bank of East Tennessee (PBET) is delighted to announce several key promotions within its team, recognizing the exceptional dedication and contributions of its employees as the bank continues to grow and succeed.

Promotions:

Kay Torbett has been promoted from First Vice President to Senior Vice President. Michelle Lovin has been promoted from First Vice President to Senior Vice President. Brad Hunt has been promoted from Vice President to First Vice President. Vanessa Lewis has been promoted from Vice President to First Vice President. Amanda Jack has been promoted from Assistant Vice President to Vice President. Melanie Baxter has been promoted from Assistant Vice President to Vice President. Tammy Ware has been promoted from Assistant Vice President to Vice President. Jim Limburg has been promoted to Information Technology Officer. Amber Davis has been promoted to Personal Banking Officer.

Jeremy Callias, President and CEO of Peoples Bank of East Tennessee, expressed his appreciation for the promoted individuals, stating, "Each of these promotions is well deserved. Our dedicated and loyal employees are the key to our success. Outstanding employees set us apart and make our customers happy to walk through our doors."

The promoted employees have consistently gone above and beyond for PBET, representing the bank with care and compassion. Kay Torbett and Michelle Lovin have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their roles, significantly contributing to PBET's deposit and loan efforts. Brad Hunt and Vanessa Lewis have shown outstanding capabilities in driving growth and fostering strong customer relationships at the Madisonville and Sweetwater branches. Amanda Jack and Tammy Ware have played pivotal roles as Assistant Vice Presidents, bringing innovative solutions to the McCaysville and Ducktown branches. Melanie Baxter has ensured efficiency and accuracy in loan operations as Loan Processing Supervisor. Jim Limburg has advanced PBET's technology infrastructure, and Amber Davis has excelled in providing exceptional service at the Tellico Plains branch. For more information about Peoples Bank of East Tennessee, please visit www.PBET.bank.





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# Second Wind Band Takes the Stage for Sounds of Summer



Friendly City Festivals announces the sixth concert in the 2024 Sounds of Summer season will showcase Second Wind Band.

The concert will be held at Market Pavilion on 106 South Jackson Street in downtown Athens Tennessee starting at 7:00 p.m. Concert goers are encouraged to bring

their lawn chairs, blankets, family and friends for a toe tapping-hand clapping night of entertainment. Food trucks for the evening will include Kona Ice, Magnolia Cookies, Grandma's Bakery and Roots Puerto Rican Food.

Second Wind Band is based out of Cleveland, Tennessee and has been playing together since 1980. The band is known for playing classic and Southern rock, blues and a bit of country. Band members include Don Wade on lead guitar and vocals, native Athenian Terry Vance on drums and vocals, Glen Williams from Decatur, Tennessee on bass guitar and vocals. The remaining series lineup is:

August 2nd - Will Carter August 9th-Tim Hughes Quartet August 16th-Trailer Hippies August 23rd-Mendingwall August 30th-The Dexter Thomas Band

This free to the public series is produced by Friendly City Festivals, a 501(c)3 subsidiary of Wilsonthropic, Inc. and is made possible by the financial support of: The City of Athens, McMinn County Tourism Board, Wolfenden Family Pharmacies, Dynasty Spas and Pools, TVA, Tennessee Overhill Association, Tennessee Arts Commission, Mayfield Dairy Farms, DENSO, Humana, VEC Customer Shares, Citizens National Bank of Sevier County. Valley Oil, Starr Regional Medical Center, Kona Ice, Pendleton's Playground, Simmons Bank, Simmons Wealth Management Group, Warren-Jackson CPAs, and Athens Kiwanis Club. Special thanks to Integrity Sound Solutions and The Morning Fax, The Daily Post-Athenian, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, The Arts Center and Main Street Athens for social media and advertising support.







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Athens, Tennessee

# **Arrest Reports**

**Joshua King**, 32 of Riceville, was arrested by the Athens PD for Evading Arrest, Resisting Stop, Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, and Driving on a Revoked License. Total Bond: \$9,500.

**Aaron Standridge**, 30 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Failure to Appear Total Bond: \$2,000.

Jerrica Contreras, 31 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Unpaid Child Support. Total Bond: \$5,000.

**Houston Joseph**, 31 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation.. Total Bond: \$1,379.45

Debra MaHone, 59 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Public Intoxication. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Cathy Starr, 52 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Public Intoxication and Disorderly Conduct. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Douglas Maley, 19 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,566.45.

Ashton Perron, 19 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for two counts of Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, Reckless Endangerment, and Unlawful possession of a weapon during commission of a felony. Total Bond: \$67,000.



The accused are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.

# What Day is It?

## Today in History - July 22

**1864** - In the first Battle of Atlanta during the Civil War, Confederate troops under General John Hood were defeated by General William Sherman's forces from the North.

**1933 -** Aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world. The flight took seven days, 18 hours, and 45 minutes.

**1934 -** Outside Chicago's Biograph Theatre, "Public Enemy No. 1" John Dillinger is mortally wounded by FBI agents

**1937** - The Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

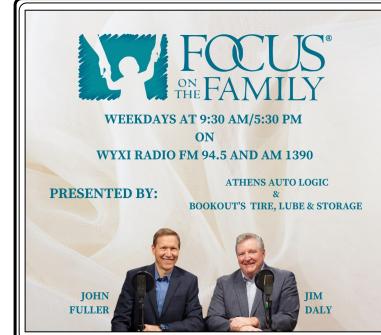
**1958** - The US performs atmospheric nuclear Test at Bikini Island

**1991** - Jeffrey Dahmer confesses to killing 17 men in 1978.

**1992** - Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar escaped from police custody as he faced transfer from La Catedral, a luxurious prison that he had built, to a more secure facility; he remained a fugitive until December 1993, when he was killed during a shootout with law enforcement.

**1994** - O.J. Simpson pleaded innocent to the murder of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

with DR. CHARLES STANLEY



Weekdays 10:00 am - 10:30 am

Sundays Noon - 12:30 pm

