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Thursday, August 22, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Correctional Officer Fired



A McMinn County correctional officer is out of a job for jokingly using a stun gun on an inmate. Both the officer and the inmate said

they were "horsing around" Friday evening when the officer pulled out his stun gun and touched the inmate with it, according to Sheriff Joe Guy.

"It was both unprofessional and a violation of our use of force policy," Sheriff Guy said in a written statement.

He says the correctional officer was immediately fired once supervisors were made aware of the situation, but notes the officer did not act with malicious intent. The inmate was not hurt.

TN Unemployment Holds Steady for Third Consecutive Month



Tennessee's unemployment rate remains at an all-time low of 3% for the third month in a row, according to the latest data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD). This record low was first achieved in May and has remained steady ever since.

Over the past year, the statewide unemployment rate has decreased by 0.2 percentage points, from 3.2% to 3%. Between June and July, employers in Tennessee added 2,000 nonfarm jobs, with the construction sector leading in job growth, followed by healthcare and social assistance, and wholesale trade.

In contrast, the national unemployment rate increased to 4.3% in July. Despite low unemployment, many Tennesseans are still searching for work, with state resources available to help job seekers and adults pursuing a high school equivalency diploma.

Despite the state's record-low unemployment, many Tennesseans are still seeking better employment opportunities. The TDLWD offers various free resources to job seekers, including online tools at TNWorkReady.com. Additionally, Tennesseans without a high school diploma can enhance their job prospects by enrolling in free Adult Education classes through TDLWD's [New Pathways to a Diploma](#) program.

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 SUN. & WED. 6PM



McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events



LIVING LEGACY FALL TRADE FAIR 2024

AUGUST 23 - 24 : 12 PM - 5PM

WOODCARVING/SOAP MAKING/APPALACHIAN MUSIC
 HERBAL TEAS/SILHOUETTE ARTIST/TINCTURES/LAMP WORK & MORE



HERITAGE SCHOOL

SPANISH II/III WITH ELIZABETH RENFRO
 SATURDAY, SEPT. 7th @ 11:00 AM

Part II will cover ordering food from a restaurant.
 \$5 or free for members



Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
 Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
 Sunday - Monday: Closed

More Information

522 W Madison Ave.
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www.livingheritagemuseum.org

Admission:

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Thursday, August 22, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

TN Rolls Out New License, ID Design and Self-Service Kiosks



This week, The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TDOSHS) began issuing new Driver Licenses and ID cards with a fresh design and improved security features along with new self-service kiosks, which can reduce wait times at Driver Service

Centers. The new credentials and kiosks will expand to all Driver Service Centers over the next few months.

The new credentials are made with a sturdy poly-carbonate composition, incorporate cutting edge security and printing techniques. This includes elaborate overlapping of data and graphics and laser engraved elements that will show if the document has been altered or is fraudulent. A machine-readable barcode with applicable class, endorsements, and restrictions are printed on the back of the card. A mini ghost image repeated from the photograph is encoded elements for automated validation to help reduce identity theft.

There is no need for citizens to obtain a new Driver License or ID with the new design before their existing license or ID expires. Driver Licenses and ID cards with the old design will be in use alongside the new cards. Previously issued Driver Licenses are valid until the expiration date listed on the card. Individuals do not need to replace their

current Driver License or ID card unless their current credential has reached its expiration or a required change is needed, such as a name or address change.

The new design will apply to all credentials issued by the TDOSHS including Regular Driver Licenses, Teen/Graduated Driver Licenses, CDLs, Motorcycle License, ID Only License, REAL IDs, and Handgun Carry Permits.

“We are excited about the added flexibility and convenience the new self-service kiosks will provide for Tennesseans,” said TDOSHS Commissioner Long. “Citizens can complete many Driver Services transactions at one of these new kiosks which will help reduce wait times at Driver Services Centers.”

Tennesseans can use the self-service kiosk to complete many Driver Services transactions including renewing or replacing a duplicate Driver License or ID Card, changing an address, updating emergency contact information, advancing a Teen/Graduated Driver License, paying reinstatement fees, and requesting a license reissue after reinstatement requirements are met. The new kiosks can take photos and process payments with Apple Pay, Google Pay, or a credit or debit card.

For more information on Tennessee Driver Services including the new self-service kiosks and Driver Licenses and ID cards visit tn.gov/safety/driver-services.html.

Source, Sample Photo Provided by: [TDOSHS](https://tdoshs.tn.gov)

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

AUGUST 23
MENDINGWALL
7PM | MARKET PARK PAVILION, ATHENS, TN

Presented by McMinn Regional Humane Society

INDOOR YARD SALE

at the
OLD Spay & Neuter Clinic
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AUGUST 23 & 24
8AM-4PM

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Bake Sale Items!
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McMinn Regional Humane Society

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Dr. Byrd

Thursday, August 22, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

E.G. Fisher September Offerings



E.G. Fisher Public Library is offering a variety of free activities and events this September for all ages, with no library card required. Highlights include weekly Dungeons & Dragons sessions, Yarnaholics knitting club, storytimes, and LEGO clubs. Adult

programs feature book clubs, technology classes, and craft workshops. Teens can enjoy art clubs, anime nights, and advisory board meetings, while children can participate in Pokémon Club and other engaging activities. The library also offers free kid/teen meals, one-on-one tech assistance, and the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

This September, let E.G. Fisher Public Library be your destination for inspiration and discovery with something exciting for every generation just around the corner!

For more details, visit www.fisherlibrary.org, see their program calendar [HERE](#) or call 423-745-7782.

Longest Zipline in the U.S. Coming to TN



The longest continuous zipline in the United States is coming to East Tennessee, adding a thrilling new attraction to the tourism hotbed of

Sevier County. WildSide, an outdoor adventure park in Pigeon Forge, announced that the massive zipline is set to open to the public in Spring of 2025. Dubbed the "Mega Zip at WildSide," it will extend 5,771 feet in length with a total vertical drop of more than 1,000 feet. Riders will take off from an elevation of 2,472 feet and descend to a height of 1,377 over the course of the ride. The park offers mountain biking, UTV tours, and e-biking across more than 18 total miles of trails. With a length of 5,523 feet, the Catamount Zip at Catamount Mountain Resort in Hillsdale, New York currently holds the title of America's longest zipline.

Source: wate.com

Photo courtesy of [Adventure is Out There YouTube](#)

Grand
OPENING

REFRESHMENTS · GIFTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Southern
EVENTS



Over 100 Rabbits Rescued from Overwhelmed Caregiver in Chattanooga

The Humane Society of the United States is assisting the McKamey Animal Center of Chattanooga in the rescue of over 100 rabbits from a nearby residence after an overwhelmed caregiver asked for help. The rabbits appeared to suffer from a variety of ailments including flea infestations, hair loss and injuries typical of overcrowding. Multiple nursing litters and rabbits of various ages were found burrowing in furniture throughout the residence. Veterinarians noted several rabbits may be pregnant. According to the owner, he has cared for pet rabbits for more than 30 years, but after enduring a health crisis, the population of rabbits grew out of control and beyond his capacity to provide the animals with adequate care. He eventually reached out to the McKamey Animal Center, which requested the assistance of the Humane Society of the United States.



Obituaries

Hazel Ophelia Wattenbarger Hicks, 84, of Englewood passed away peacefully to her eternal home on August 21. Hazel graduated from McMinn County High School, Hiwassee College (AA), Tennessee Wesleyan College (University) (BS), and the University of Tennessee Knoxville (MS,+45). She taught for 35 years in McMinn County Schools, serving first as a homebound instructor, then at Mt. Harmony School where she met her future husband, and then the majority of her teaching career at Niota Elementary teaching her "angels with horns," her precious second grade students. Hazel grew up a member of Niota United Methodist Church and transferred her membership to Englewood United Methodist Church when she and Fred moved to Englewood. She was a very active member, serving as Sunday School teacher for children and then the older adults for the majority of her adult years. A funeral service will be conducted at 7:00 pm, Thursday, August 22, in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. Family and friends will meet at Smith Funeral Home, 10:00 am, on Friday, August 23, to go in procession to Sunrise Cemetery for the committal service at 10:30 am. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 pm, Thursday at the funeral home prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Hazel Ophelia Wattenbarger Hicks.

Today In History - August 21

- 565** - St. Columba is credited with the first-known recorded sighting of a monster in Loch Ness.
- 1775** - King of Great Britain and Ireland, George III proclaims the American colonies to be in open rebellion and orders his officials to suppress it.
- 1848** - The United States annexes New Mexico.
- 1862** - French composer Claude Debussy, a seminal force in the music of the 20th century, was born in Saint-Germain-en-Laye.
- 1865** - William Sheppard received the first U.S. patent for liquid soap.
- 1902** - US President Theodore Roosevelt became 1st US chief executive to ride in a car.
- 1906** - First Victor Victrola manufactured.
- 1950** - Althea Gibson becomes 1st black competitor in a US national tennis competition.
- 1950** - First patent for controlling vehicle speed (cruise control) granted to American inventor Ralph Teetor.
- 1969** - The Beatles last official group photo session, at John & Yoko's home 'Tittenhurst Park', near Ascot.

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