

Local & Area News

A Slam Dunk Food Drive!

ARREST MADE IN 46 YEAR COLD CASE

An arrest has been made in one of the oldest cold cases in East Tennessee. A resident of McMinn County, Max Benson Calhoun, age 67, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of John Raymond Constant, Jr., 46 years ago. Constant was a truck driver. His body was found in the cab of his truck off U.S. Highway 411 in Vonore on March 16th, 1973. He'd been shot at least 17 times with a high-powered rifle. At the time, authorities said it appeared to be an ambush. An arrest was made in September, 1982 of Harold Buckner, a onetime candidate for sheriff in McMinn County. However, prosecutors dropped the charges against Buckner. At the time of his murder, authorities suggested that Constant had been tied to underworld figures who ordered his death when he "began rocking the boat." Calhoun was arrested last week after being indicted by the Monroe County Grand Jury. The indictment says the murder was pre-meditated. District Attorney Steve Crump said that a witness with a terminal illness came forward and said they didn't know if they would get another chance to share the information they knew about the murder.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The guest on the Women at the Well radio show, "Hope From the Well," this week will be Pat Guffey, a board member of Women of Hope. "Hope From the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. each Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5 or <u>ONLINE</u>. The Clearwater Baptist Church Upward Basketball program has set a record. In a Slam Dunk Community Challenge last Saturday, The Clearwater Upward Basketball League hosted the largest food drive event ever in the history of Coordinated Charities. Each team or

cheerleading squad selected one member and weighed them. That person's weight became the goal for the team. The entire league was able to collect almost 6,000 pounds of food. The photo from Starr Ron



shows some of the participants, (L-R) on the bench: Grace Debusk, Tucker Ladd, Kathryn Larson. Kneeling: Baylee Crisp. Standing: Coach Mike Skiera, Braylen Moore, Richard Warfield, and Coach Kerri Prince Debusk.





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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

• Eddie Dean Pulley, age 70, of Athens, died Monday at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. He served with the Tennessee Highway Patrol as a patrolman for 31 years before retiring in 2008. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.



• George Howard Usry, III, age 80, of Clemson, South Carolina, died Sunday following a brief illness. He attended Clemson College, where he played football and was a member of the 1959 Sugar Bowl team. He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. He became general manager of Athens Utilities Board, retiring in

2000 after serving for 28 years. He was named Athens Man of the Year in 1977. He also served as president of the Kiwanis Club and the YMCA Board of Directors. Funeral services will be held at the Clemson United Methodist Church this Saturday at 1 p.m. Robinson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• Betsy Stewart Perry, age 89, of the Rogers Creek Community, died Tuesday at her home. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Smith Funeral Home.

• **Robert "Bobby" Shugart,** age 77, of Riceville, died Tuesday. Arrangements will be announced by Bordwine Funeral Home.

• Johnny A. Wilson, age 86, of Athens, died Tuesday. Arrangements will be announced by Bordwine Funeral Home.

Two Wrecks in the Same Place

Around 8:30 Monday morning, two separate traffic accidents occurred in the same location on Highway 39 East just outside of Athens. In one crash, a 2011 Dodge 2500 and a 2002 Dodge Neon collided, sending one person to Starr Regional by AMR. The second accident involved a 2019 Ford Fusion that ran into the ditch in the same location. The Englewood Rural Fire Department re-

sponded along with the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. State Trooper Travis Ryans investigated.

(Photos by Lynn Ingram with the Englewood Rural Fire Dept)









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