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Thursday, May 16, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Two Men Drown in Meigs County, Bodies Recovered Saturday Morning

Meigs County Emergency Services initiated recovery operations near the Blythe Ferry boat ramp over the weekend following the tragic drowning of two Cleveland men on Friday night. Tony Finnell, Director for Meigs County Emergency Services, described the water conditions as choppy and murky due to debris from recent storms, with elevated water levels. The incident occurred when two young men, aged 19 and 20, accompanied by one of their girlfriends, went to a raised area near the Highway 60 bridge to swim. An eyewitness reported that one of the young men encountered immediate trouble after jumping into the water. The other attempted to rescue his friend but became trapped in the rough waters as well, leading to both of their drownings. Meigs and Rhea County Emergency services, along with Hamilton County crews, collaborated in the recovery efforts. Due to debris and rough winds, rescue operations were temporarily halted until Saturday morning. By deploying underwater sonar and a robot, crews recovered the first victim around 10:30 am on Saturday, followed by the second victim approximately two hours later. The two men were identified as Tristan Smith, 19, and J.C. Burrow, 20, both from Cleveland.

from Local 3 News

Community News You Can Use

- Athens Utilities Board combined Budget and Finance Committee and Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th, at 11:00 a.m.
- The Annual Dan Henry Antique Tractor Show is ready to take you back in time. Come appreciate vintage machinery from all over the southeast. The event is FREE to attend and open to the public. It is being hosted at Dooley Tractor Company 109 N. Congress Pkwy in Athens on THIS Saturday, May 18 from 8 am - 4 pm. 2 Dudes BBQ food truck will be on-site. For more info or to participate, contact Dan at (423) 506-2699.
- The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint on July 5th at 9:00 pm on Highway 11 at County Road 50 in McMinn County. The scheduled checkpoint is contingent upon manpower and weather conditions.
- Habitat for Humanity is currently accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. This is a part-time, salary position. Resumes may be sent to hhe.jones3645@att.net



McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

HERITAGE SCHOOL

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BASKET MAKING CLASS
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More Information

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Thursday, May 16, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Welcomes Kayla Walker



Kayla Walker, PA-C, RDMS, VT, MR, has recently joined Starr Regional Medical Center, offering family medicine services to patients in Etowah and neighboring areas.

“We are excited to welcome Kayla Walker to Starr Regional Family Practice,” said John McLain, CEO of Starr Regional Medical Center. “Starr Regional Medical Center strives to make our community healthier by ensuring access to high quality care. Kayla will be a great addition to our team of family medicine providers who offer exceptional care, right here at home.”

Walker holds a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree and has extensive experience in patient care, diagnosis, and managing various medical conditions. In addition to her PA credentials, she also possesses a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Science and has over six years of experience as a sonographer and MRI technologist. Active in her community, Walker volunteers at the Good Faith Clinic, offering medical assistance to those in need. Walker sees patients at Starr Regional Family Practice, located at 305 Grady Road, Suite B, Etowah. Appointments may be made by calling 423.263.0722.

Courts Find Warrantless TWRA Searches Unconstitutional

The Tennessee Court of Appeals has ruled that state game wardens must obtain a warrant before entering private property in the state. This ruling limits a longstanding power held by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to conduct covert surveillance and patrols on privately-owned lands without judicial approval. TWRA officers have historically operated without the need for warrants, supervisor authorization, or documentation of their searches. They, at times, employ tactics such as wearing camouflage or installing hidden cameras to monitor activities based solely on individual officers' suspicions. The court's unanimous opinion likened TWRA's methods to the arbitrary searches conducted by British customs officials prior to the Revolutionary War, prompting comparisons to the protections in the U.S. Constitution's 4th Amendment. An attorney for Hunter Hollingsworth and Terry Rainwaters, two Benton County men who challenged TWRA's warrantless searches of their separate properties, called the decision “a massive win for property rights in Tennessee.” Emily Buck, the TWRA spokesperson, noted that the agency “voluntarily implemented a landowner consent process to enter private property and officers have already received additional training on obtaining search warrants when appropriate.” TWRA has the option to appeal the decision to the Tennessee Supreme Court within 60 days.



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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Partly Sunny. High 78.
Thurs. Night - Partly cloudy. Low 60.
Friday - Mostly Cloudy, 70% chance of storms in the afternoon. High 76.
Friday Night - 80% chance of storms. Low 65.
More Weather at: wyxi.com

Thursday, May 16, 2024 **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3** **Athens, Tennessee**

Arrest Reports

- Mya Smith, 25 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Tampering with Evidence and Shoplifting. Total Bond: \$25,000.
- Brandon Conaway, 32 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.
- Leslie Shankle, 57 of Etowah was arrested for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$602.95
- Ravanda Womac, 51 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine and Introduction of Contraband into a Penal Facility. Bond was not disclosed.
- Ryan Rayl of Niota, was arrested by the THP for DUI, Driving without Due Care, and Reckless Driving. Total Bond: \$1,500.
- Denny Camp, 37 of Athens was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation, State. Bond not reported.
- Jack Ormond of Athens, was arrested by Etowah PD for Domestic Assault and Criminal Trespassing. Total Bond: \$1,500
- Howard Farmer of Tekoa, WA, was arrested by Etowah PD for Public Intoxication. Total Bond: \$1,500.
- Taylor Young, 27 of Etowah, was arrested by Etowah PD for Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and Introduction of Contraband into a Penal Facility. No bond reported.
- Ashlynn Hollows, 20 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Simple Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.
- Alexander Barnett, 33 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear on charges of Attempted 1st Degree Murder, Reckless Endangerment, and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. Total Bond: \$100,000.
- Cynthia Hale of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.
- Wanda McNabb, 30 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and Tampering with Evidence. Total Bond: \$9,000.
- Alexander Laughlin, 35 of Knoxville was arrested by the THP as a Fugitive from Justice. Total Bond: \$150,000
- Kaitlyn Evans of Athens was arrested for Simple Domestic Assault. Total Bond \$1,000.

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



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