

Morning Fax®

Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, May 28, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Two Local Men Face Child Sex Charges

A dozen people face felony charges and two dozen victims have been iden-

tified in a large-scale, collaborative operation target online child exploitation and sextortion in Tennessee. Over a threemonth period, from February to April, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task





Force, housed within its Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Unit (CDEU), conducted Operation Protecting Tomorrow, with work extending to 21 counties in the state and involving almost 20 local, state, and federal law enforcement partners. Operation Protecting Tomorrow's purpose was to identify and locate children who were victims of sextortion and online sexual exploitation, along with identifying and arresting individuals who aim to harm children online. These investigations stemmed from cybertips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), undercover investigations, and tips from the community. Two of the twelve people arrested were Shawn Steven, 32, Decatur (left photo): Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (5 Counts) and Cody Gunter, 29, Niota (right photo): Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (1 Count), Solicitation of a Minor (1 Count).

TBI photos



& CATERING 423-829-4126

•Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00

•Thursday-Athens Sock Shop 10:30-1:30



Community News You Can Use

- The Cherokee Beekeepers Association will hold its monthly meeting TODAY, Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the AgCentral Farmers Cooperative located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., Athens, Tn. The public is welcome and you do not need to be a member to attend.
- The Good Faith Clinic will be open TODAY, Tuesday, May 28 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens. REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, Tuesday of each month.
- The McMinn County Library Board will meet on Tuesday evening, May 28, 2024, at 6:00pm. The meeting will be held at E.G. Fisher Public Library.

LISTENING REMINDER: This week's guest on Main Street Moments will be Mileena Livesay, Program Coordinator at E.G. Fisher Public Library. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.









Compassionate Service in Your Time of Need

n times of grief, making difficult decisions about how best to honor the memory of someone so important can be overwhelming. We are here to help with complete,

professional and compassionate funeral planning services to meet your needs and respectfully celebrate the life and legacy of your loved one.



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Athens, Tennessee

Lower Unemployment Recorded in April

Each of Tennessee's 95 counties recorded lower unemployment rates in April, and each came in at or below 4.1 percent, according to newly released data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. In McMinn County the rate was 3.4% down -0.5; Meigs County 3.7% down 0.6; Monroe County 2.8% down 0.2; Bradley County 2.9% down 0.5; Polk County 2.8% down 0.6. Williamson County recorded the state's lowest unemployment rate for April. At 2.0 percent, the rate dropped 0.2 of a percentage point from 2.2 percent in March. Sevier County had Tennessee's second-lowest rate in April, which was 2.1 percent, down 0.4 of a percentage point from the March rate.

TODAY IS:

- National Brisket Day
- National Hamburger Day
- World Hunger Day

Define Your Tomorrow

Obituaries

Charleah Madalynn Shepherd, 2 months of age, passed away on May 24, in her home. She was the beloved daughter of Bradley Allan Shepherd and Taylor Michelle Thomas. Charleah was born on March 18, in Knoxville. She was very passionate about her bottles; she did not miss a meal, and she ate a couple in between. She loved spending the day with her mama, but she always waited for her daddy to come home from work. She hated wearing hair bows, but she allowed her mother to adorn her head with them. She enjoyed car rides as long as the car was in motion. Going outside could calm any storm that raged inside her little mind. She loved all the snuggles she could get. She enjoyed her "spa time" in the bathtub. She liked being read to, and her favorite book was "Ellis' Propeller". Charleah was a very loved baby girl, and it was easy to know by the smile she wore. She met her milestones ahead of time; she was such a smart baby. She will be remembered always. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 PM Wednesday, May 29, in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Niota Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM on Wednesday prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Cleveland State Community College Define your tomorrow today. Register for fall classes at registration.clevelandstate.cc.





AGCENTRAL, THE CITY OF ATHENS, MCMINN COUNTY, FRIENDLY CITY FESTIVALS, MAYFIELD DAIRY FARMS PRESENT



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ATHENS LIONS CLUB MOORUN
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Athens, Tennessee

This Day in History - May 28

- **1804 -** Napoleon proclaimed the establishment of the French Empire.
- **1830** The Indian Removal Act was passed, allowing U.S. President Andrew Jackson to grant Native American tribes unsettled western prairie land in exchange for their settlements within the borders of extant U.S. states, thereby clearing the way for further white settlement.
- **1908** English novelist Ian Fleming was born. During World War II, he did espionage work for the British Naval Intelligence. Fleming created the secret service agent character James Bond in his novels.
- ${\bf 1940}\,$ The Belgian army surrendered to invading German forces during World War II.
- **1944** Singer Gladys Knight was born. Her biggest hit record was "Midnight Train to Georgia."
- **1999** After some two decades of restoration work, Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper was reopened to public view in Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan.





Arrest Reports

Michael Fetzer, 59 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Assault and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$5,000.

Tiara Wilcox, 21 of Delano, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of State Probation and Failure to Appear. Total Bond \$24,000.

Paige Beauliew, 28 of Dayton, was arrested by the THP for DUI. No Bond.

Brian Maupin, 46 of Decatur, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI. No Bond Reported.

Richard Vatilla, 52 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of the Sex Offender Registry. Total Bond: \$100,000

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The preceding information was compiled from public sources.



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