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Niota Man Faces Additional Charges in Child Exploitation Case



Cody Shane Gunter, a resident of Niota, faces new charges of sexual exploitation of a minor following his arrest earlier this year during a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) operation. Gunter was initially apprehended in April as part of 'Operation Protecting Tomorrow' and charged with Sexual Exploitation of a Minor and Solicitation of a Minor.

During the ongoing investigation, TBI special agents with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) squad uncovered additional evidence linking Gunter to the production of child sexual abuse material. Last month, agents identified several victims, resulting in new arrest warrants. Gunter (DOB 03/18/1995) has now been charged with three counts of Especially Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor.

Authorities located Gunter in Cumberland County with the assistance of the Sheriffs' Offices of Rhea, Fentress, and Cumberland counties, as well as the Graysville and Crossville Police Departments. Gunter surrendered to the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department on Thursday and is currently being held without bond.

The charges and allegations referenced are merely accusations of criminal conduct and not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law.



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- Monday - Closed
- Tuesday-Madisonville-Will Sav -10:30 - 2:00
- Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Athens Sock Shop-10:30 -2:00
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30
- Saturday-Terra Bella Assisted Living (Jeepin with the Residents) 10-3





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Monday, August 5, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Richard Harrill, Jr., age 78 of Athens, passed away peacefully at home on August 3. He was born in Madisonville. He was a loving, dedicated and hardworking individual who always put the needs of others ahead of his own. He graduated from MCHS in 1965 and attended Hiwassee Community College. He was a faithful and active member of East Athens Baptist Church. He loved playing basketball, tennis and softball. He was inducted into MCHS Hall of Fame in 2016. He was instrumental in getting the MCHS baseball field built. He was a well-respected contractor of his family company Richard Harrill and Sons. He worked in several factories, small businesses, schools and residential work across multiple states. His real calling by God was to work on churches for many years. He built, remodeled and added additions to numerous churches in McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Blount, Jefferson, Loudon and Knox Counties. He was involved in helping his community grow through projects at the YMCA, McMinn County Senior Center and Denso Eco Park. He enjoyed spending time with his family and will be deeply missed by all. Funeral services will be at 7:00 P.M. Tuesday at East Athens Baptist Church. Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 P.M. on Tuesday at the church. Graveside services will be Wednesday, August 7, at 11:00 A.M. in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will gather at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home at 10:15 A.M. Wednesday to go to the cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens in charge of arrangements.

Dr. David Allen Duncan, 76, of Athens, TN, passed away Wednesday, July 31. David was a beloved professor for 40 years at TWU. He wanted no attention called to himself but was showered with many accolades and awards earned through academia and his pursuit of excellence. He expected much of himself and others. He believed his students and parents deserved "real college" with high standards and expectations and would not accept anything less than their best. He will be greatly missed. Memorial services will be held at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 10th. The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service at the church. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Monroe Co. Deputy Shoots, Kills Man

At the request of 10th Judicial District Attorney General Shari Tayloe, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) special agents are investigating a shooting involving a deputy from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. The incident occurred Friday morning at approximately 8:30 at the Monroe County Justice Center, located in the 4500 block of New Highway 68.

Preliminary reports indicate that a man fired shots in the parking lot before approaching the building's front door, firing again, and entering the building. A deputy confronted the individual and discharged his service weapon, striking the man. The suspect was later pronounced dead at a local hospital. No other injuries were reported.

TBI agents are working to independently determine the sequence of events that led to the shooting, including gathering evidence and conducting interviews. The findings of the investigation will be shared with District Attorney General Tayloe for further review and consideration. The TBI's role in such cases is to act as fact-finders; they do not determine the justification of the officers' actions. That responsibility lies with the district attorney general who requested TBI's involvement.

The TBI does not release the identities of officers involved in such incidents, deferring instead to the respective department for such disclosures as they see fit.

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Monday, August 5, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Arrest Reports

Carl Bryan, 63 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for Driving on a Revoked License and Possession / Casual Exchange of Fentanyl. Total Bond: \$7,000

Tiffany Howard, 30 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation, Simple Possession / Casual Exchange, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$4,671.30

Aaron Bales, 27 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for his Third Violation of Driving on a Revoked License and his Second Violation of Probation Charge. Total Bond: \$4,736.90

Kimberly Williams, 59 of Athens, was arrested for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$744.95

Jeremy Bergman, 23 of Delano, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault, Kidnapping, Sexual Battery and Statutory Rape. Total Bond: \$22,000

Marvin Collins, 54 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Resisting Stop, Tampering with Evidence, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. No Bond

Dustin Lance, 26 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Criminal Trespassing and Vandalism. Total Bond: \$4,500

Edward Jankowski, 39 of Calhoun, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. No Bond

James Borden, 40 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault. No Bond.

Rufus Collier, 58 of Athens was arrested by the MCSO for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Simple Possession / Casual Exchange of Fentanyl, Possession / casual exchange of Methamphetamine, and Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$13,321

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered from public sources.



Moments

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Today's News...This Morning

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WEATHER FORECAST

Monday - Sunny, Humid. High 90.
Mon. night - Partly Cloudy. Low 71.
Tuesday - Mostly Sunny. Humid w/light winds. High 88.
Tuesday night - Partly Cloudy. Low 71.

More weather at: wysi.com

Monday, August 5, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Order Veteran Bricks for Fall Ceremony

The Athens Parks and Recreation Department has announced that anyone interested in having a brick placed in the Veterans Park walkway, in honor or in memory of a veteran, must place their order by 4:30 pm on August 14, 2024, to be included in the November 10, 2024, ceremony. In addition to a brick being placed in the walkway, brick purchasers receive an attractive certificate suitable for framing, in honor of their veteran. Veterans Park walkway bricks are \$50 each and the city also has replica bricks available for \$20 each. Replicas are 1 1/4" x 3" and are designed to take home as a souvenir as part of the ceremony. Bricks are available for purchase online at www.athensstn.gov if paying with a debit/credit card, or at the Recreation Department, located in City Hall. For more information, please contact the Office of Parks & Recreation at (423) 744-2704.

What Day is It?

Today in History - August 5

- 1884** - The cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty was laid at Bedloe's Island, now called Liberty Island, New York.
- 1914** - In Cleveland, Ohio, the first electric traffic light was installed; it featured red and green lights.
- 1926** - In his last public stunt, American magician Harry Houdini stayed in an underwater airtight coffin for approximately 90 minutes.
- 1962** - South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested on charges of leaving the country without a passport and inciting workers to strike; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment.
- 1967** - The U.S. space probe Mariner 7 flew by Mars, sending back photographs and scientific data.
- 1981** - U.S. President Ronald Reagan fired more than 11,000 air traffic controllers who were on strike for better working conditions. While staffing levels were thought to be restored in two years, it took about 10 years before they returned to normal.
- 2010** - Thirty-three workers became trapped after a mine in the Atacama Desert of Chile collapsed, and the resulting rescue took 69 days, attracting international attention.

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