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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday, August 18, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ TWO MEN SHOT IN ENGLEWOOD

Bobby Russell, 78, (photo below) has been charged with first degree murder and attempted first degree murder in a shooting at the Englewood Package Store on Highway 411 north of Englewood Saturday night and at another shooting a short time later on County Rd. 478. Sheriff Joe Guy says the owner of the store, Bill Haney, was airlifted from the scene with several gunshot wounds from a small caliber weapon. Haney said Russell walked into the store, shot him and then left. A second man, Bill Culberson, 80, was shot to death in his driveway on CR 478. A lookout was posted for Russell, who turned himself into the McMinn County Justice Center early Sunday. Sheriff Guy says Russell confessed to the shootings, saying he had become obsessed over a 40-year-old business deal with Haney and Culberson. All three had been affiliated with the Englewood Package Store business. Russell's bond has been set at \$150,000.



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MORE STATE & LOCAL NEWS

◆ FITZPATRICK SUPPORTERS TO RALLY

Retired Navy Commander Walter Fitzpatrick will be sentenced at 10 a.m. Tuesday in McMinn County Criminal Court after being found guilty in June on charges of extortion and aggravated perjury. Fitzpatrick was arrested at the McMinn County Courthouse for allegedly harassing and stalking a grand jury foreman. Supporters will hold a prayer breakfast Monday morning at 10 at the Cracker Barrel restaurant and a barbecue at the Athens Regional Park from 3 to 8 p.m. Filmmaker William F. Fain is in Athens to film the events surrounding the upcoming sentencing of Fitzpatrick, and he plans to create a documentary about the Fitzpatrick story.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Medic Regional Blood Center's Bloodmobile will be at Lowes of Athens today, Monday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ✓ The 2014 Southeast Tennessee Senior Olympics district games will be held September 25-October 4 in McMinn and Bradley counties. The games are for area seniors ages 49 and over, and include such events as badminton, bowling, golf, and horseshoes. The early bird deadline to enter is August 29. For more information, call 744-2705.

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Athens, Tennessee

Monday, August 18, 2014

Vehicles Collide In Etowah

No injuries were reported last Friday afternoon when two vehicles collided on Tennessee Avenue in front of the Piggly-Wiggly parking lot in Etowah. According to police, the Honda Accord pulled into the path of a Ford Explorer. The driver was cited for failure to yield the right-of-way. (Photo by Jay Thomson)



Obituaries

William A. Wood, III, age 72, of Athens died last Thursday at his residence. Arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home.

Mrs. Sitha Ann "Granny Bunch" Howser Bunch, age 94, of Athens died Thursday at her home. Funeral services were held this past Saturday night at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral home.

John Barry Barnett, Sr., age 72, of Etowah died last Friday. He worked at Sloan and Webb and was the owner of Barnett's Grocery. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

HIGHWAY 30 WIDENING UPDATE

Construction crews continue to make progress on the project to widen Highway 30 to four lanes all the way from Athens to Etowah. At this point, traffic has been shifted onto the new traffic lanes from County Road 623 to west of County Road 561. That means all traffic is now traveling on the newly-constructed traffic lanes from County Road 609 to the four lanes west of County Road 561. Currently, grading, drainage, paving, and construction of a concrete box beam bridge and retaining wall are underway from County Road 609 to the four-lane section in Etowah. The estimated completion date for the entire project is this November.



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