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Monday, June 25, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

Local & Area News

◆ ARREST MADE IN ETOWAH MURDER

An arrest has been made in the murder of an Etowah teenager, 18-year-old Kelsey Burnett, nearly a year ago. A male juvenile, Joseph Wielzen of Etowah, has been booked into the McMinn County Jail on charges of second degree murder and rape. Miss Burnette disappeared while walking in the early morning hours of July 1st, 2017. A citizen discovered her body off the side of Charles Street on July 4th. The TBI and the Etowah Police Department launched an investigation which eventually identified Wielzen as the person responsible for her death. An autopsy revealed Ms. Burnett's cause of death was a result of multiple severe blows to the head. Red paint was found on her skull that matched red paint on a metal baseball bat found near her body.



Heavy Rain, High Winds Hit Area

The Athens area and much of southeast Tennessee was hammered by heavy rain and high winds Saturday afternoon. In places, winds reached 70 miles per hour. The wind took down a large tree limb on Edgewood at Crestway Drive in Athens.



(Photo by Robert Ketchersid, Jr.)

◆ GOOD NEWS FOR DAIRY FARMERS

Dean Foods, parent company of Mayfield Dairy, says it has no plans to terminate any more contracts with local farmers. Earlier this year, Dean ended contracts with about 100 dairy farmers across the nation, including one in McMinn County and one in Monroe County. Now, the Mayfield plant says it will be hiring 50 new employees to handle production volume from its plant in Braselton, Georgia, which is closing.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The guest this week on "Chamber Chat," the weekly Athens Area Chamber of Commerce radio program, will be Sue Birchett, director of Grace Healthcare of Decatur. You can hear the show at 8:15 a.m. each Tuesday on WYXI Radio, AM-1390, FM-94.5, and on the internet here: [ONLINE](#).

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Monday, June 25, 2018

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **Hugh H. "Buddy" Biddle, Jr.**, age 90, of Athens, died June 14th at Life Care Center of Athens. Buddy was the owner and operator of Biddle & Bridges Florist for many years until his retirement. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Keith United Methodist Church. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **David "Bud" Ray Brady, Sr.**, age 77, of Decatur, died Saturday at his home. He had been a brick mason. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Anna R. Brown**, age 85, of Athens, died Saturday at Life Care Center of Athens. Arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home.
- ♦ **James "Jimmy" Lee Howard**, age 78, of Decatur, died Wednesday at Starr Regional of Athens. He was retired from Shaw Industries. Funeral services were held Saturday night at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.
- ♦ **Thomas O. Schumpert**, age 65, of Athens, died Wednesday at his home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.
- ♦ **Ruby Kirk Bolden**, age 80, of Niota, died Thursday at Willow Acres Assisted Living. Funeral services were held Sunday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will be at 11 a.m. Monday in Union-McMinn Cemetery.

Three Die in Train-Car Crash

Three people were killed last Thursday afternoon when their car was struck by a train at a railroad crossing north of Calhoun. They were identified as 45-year-old Wendy Humphreys of Chattanooga, 46-year-old Johnny Ashworth of Chattanooga, and 17-year-old Jasmine Ashworth of Calhoun, Georgia. The Tennessee Highway Patrol says they were heading north on Highway 11 and tried to cross the tracks on a private road where there are no lights or crossing arms. That's when a Norfolk Southern train with three engines and 40 cars hit their car. The THP says the impact knocked the car off the tracks and down an embankment, where it landed on its top. All three victims had to be cut from the vehicle.

(Photo courtesy of newschannel9.com)



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